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# michigan education CONNECTION

## Catch the Vision

**"Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students."**

—Michigan State Board of Education Goal

## State Board Update

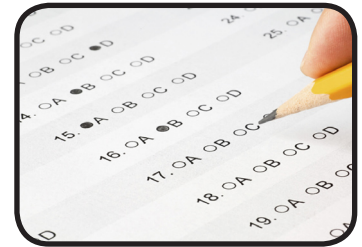
Kathleen N. Straus was elected president of the State Board of Education for the fifth consecutive two-year term at the Board's monthly meeting in January. It will be her sixth term overall leading the state's top education body.

In November 2008, Straus and John C. Austin were re-elected statewide to the State Board of Education. This will be Straus' third eight-year term on the State Board and Austin's second term. Austin will continue to serve as the State Board's vice president.

Other officers re-elected by the Board include: Carolyn L. Curtin as the board's secretary; Marianne Yared McGuire as treasurer; and Nancy Danhof as the State Board's delegate to the National Association of State Boards of Education.



Mrs. Straus and Mr. Austin being sworn into office by Justice Michael Cavanagh



## MI-SAS Public Input Requested!!!

Public input is now being solicited for the design of the Michigan School Accreditation System (MI-SAS). You may access the survey, the MI-SAS document, PowerPoint and Video at:  
[www.michigan.gov/mi-sas](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-sas).

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), working with stakeholder groups has developed a recommendation that will redesign the Education YES! annual school accreditation report and replace it with MI-SAS.

It is proposed that the MI-SAS report be based on student achievement and compliance with Michigan law. These components are combined to assign an Annual State Accreditation Status to each school. To provide educators, parents, and employers with a complete picture of the school, additional information about the school and its district, community, and the state is included as part of the "dashboard" display.

The deadline for public input is March 6, 2009.

## From State Superintendent Mike Flanagan:

The Governor's budget recommendation presented last week is a combination of spending cuts and government reforms necessary to address both the on-going structural deficit in Michigan's budget and the cyclical challenges caused by the national recession.

The Fiscal Year 2010 shortfall to the School Aid Fund (SAF) is estimated at nearly \$229 million. The Governor reluctantly has proposed to address this shortfall with a combination of \$65 million in additional revenues from Lottery and the closure of tax loopholes, and \$164 million in funding reductions. The foundation allowance is proposed to be cut by \$59 per-pupil. The proposed budget also includes eliminations to a number of legislative earmarks to specific school districts; and reductions to the line items for "hold harmless districts," ISD operations, declining enrollment, and adult education.

The Governor's budget maintains the Michigan Promise Grants for post-secondary education, and creates a new needs-based scholarship (Michigan College Access Grants) that consolidates six current scholarship programs -- Michigan Tuition Grant; Michigan Competitive Scholarship; Michigan Nursing Scholarship; Michigan Work-Study; Adult Part-Time Grant; and the Michigan Educational Opportunity Grant.



These are difficult economic times. In turn, all local school districts will have to continue to make some tough budget decisions to address these shortfalls in funding, while still providing a high-quality education for our students. This is the reality today. This is the right time for us to continue

the quest to Re-Imagine how Michigan schools deliver a quality and relevant education in this 21st Century. We need to accept this as an opportunity, that we can provide a better education in a more efficient and effective system.

## MDE Cultivates International Exchange

On January 15, 2009, the Grants Coordination and School Support (GCSS) unit hosted the Chinese Delegation for Children's Nutrition Improvement Program from China. The delegation of seven was interested in learning more about the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Food Distribution Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The delegation was organized by the China Research and Development Foundation with the Office of China Programs at Michigan State University and the CS Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems at Michigan State University. After a welcome by Carol Wolenberg, deputy superintendent, discussion was lead by GCSS Office Director Mary Ann Chartrand, and Barbara Campbell, Marla Moss and Cheryl Schubel of the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

The purpose of the Chinese delegation visit was to study the history, legislation, management structure and system of the NSLP. With the economic development in the last twenty years, China is interested in improving children's nutrition, especially for those in the poor and rural areas. Discussion centered on how USDA implements its nutritional programs for the school children and how programs are being monitored and audited at the school level. Tzulien Hwang of GCSS assisted with translation.



*Members of GCSS with Chinese Delegates*

The delegation also visited USDA in Washington D.C. to discuss the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) at the federal level and to discuss the coordination and cooperation between USDA and the United States Department of Education. In addition, the delegation also visited three public schools in Michigan to observe how the NSLP is implemented at the local level.



## MAS/FPS & MDE – Schoolwide Planning Session

**March 9, 2009**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), in partnership with the Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists (MAS/FPS), is offering a Schoolwide (SW) planning workshop: "Schoolwide Clarifications, Data Collection, Documentation Requirements, and Plan Reviews." This SW planning session will provide an opportunity to work on the SW plans for any Title I buildings in your district that have completed the mandated year of planning any time in the past. A special effort will be made to provide clear guidance on required components, share samples of approved plans, and review the rubric available for continued work on the school's SW plan when the workshop is over.

During recent audits of the MDE by the federal government, SW plans for a number of schools in local educational agencies were reviewed. Subsequently, MDE audited nearly 200 additional SW plans. Some SW plans lack the required components, indicating that SW plans throughout the state need to be updated.

The session will assist any current Title I school in understanding the requirements and also provide a foundation for the mandatory evaluation of the existing plan. Consider sending a small team to the session so they can share the information with the rest of the school's team.

To take advantage of this opportunity, please click on the following link to register: [www.regonline.com/63364\\_685308D](http://www.regonline.com/63364_685308D). After entering your e-mail address and verifying the e-mail address, choose the March 9, 2009 session at the Sheraton Hotel Lansing. Proceed with the registration as prompted. Registration is limited to 150 participants. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of School Improvement at 517-373-4588.

## Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars

The Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars program is now accepting applications for the 2009 application period.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Young Scholars Program seeks high-achieving, low to moderate-income 7th grade students, and cultivates their talents and abilities throughout high school by providing the personalized advising and financial support needed to secure challenging academic opportunities.

Students who are awarded this scholarship are financially supported for their entire academic career and that support begins in high school and continues through college. They are given an academic advisor and together the student and family prepare for an education they could only dream of.

Each year, more than 1,000 high-achieving 7th graders nationwide apply for the Young Scholars Program. Approximately 75 students are selected each year.

For more information about the application process and eligibility requirements, visit the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation website at: <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/young-scholars-program/>.



## Standards-based IEPs Give Students with Disabilities Improved Access to the General Education Curriculum

Updated language in the 2004 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) along with new guidance in a No Child Left Behind (NCLB) regulation finalized in 2007, necessitates that Michigan create a standards-based format and procedures for an individualized education program (IEP). A standards-based IEP aligns student academic goals with the general education curriculum.

As part of Michigan's preparation to meet all of the new federal requirements, the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE-EIS) formed a work group to review the IEP requirements. The work group developed a draft of a new IEP format and will continue to develop standards-based procedural and guidance documents. The prototype of the IEP format and guidance documents will be distributed to school districts later in 2009; a transition to the new IEP format will begin at that time.

The new NCLB regulation (called the "2 Percent" regulation) released by the U.S. Department of Education (USED), set a deadline of fall 2009 for states to develop the format and the procedures for making decisions regarding state assessment(s) taken by students with disabilities. States that fail to meet the USED deadline and requirements will not be allowed to count the results of Alternate Assessments based on Modified Achievement Standards (AA-MAS, or "MEAP Access") taken by students with disabilities, toward adequate yearly progress (AYP) under NCLB. Michigan's AA-MAS, currently being piloted across the state, will be administered as part of the Michigan Educational Assessment System (MEAS).

All IEP team members will need to be familiar with the general education curriculum, standards based on grade level content expectations (GLCEs), and all of the state assessments in order to be able to make informed decisions.

The NCLB also created a new level of accountability for special education. No student can be exempt from statewide assessments mandated under NCLB. The need for higher levels of student performance on assessments puts an emphasis on access to the general education curriculum; this access is supported through a standards-based IEP. Therefore, the success of teaching GLCEs to students with disabilities is reflected in assessment scores, which are used to determine a school district's AYP score. Schools failing to make AYP for two consecutive years in either English language arts or mathematics are identified for improvement and must work with the MDE to develop plans for such improvement.



The standards-based IEP reinforces concepts that shape Michigan's current education principles, policies and practices:

- All students are general education students
- There is one curriculum - the general education curriculum
- The IEP identifies supports necessary for students with disabilities to achieve and make progress in the general education curriculum

To read more about the Standards-based IEP look for the upcoming issue of FOCUS on Results Guidance and Technical Assistance, "Standards Based Individualized Education Program (IEP) Benefits Students" by Pat MacQuarrie (March 2009, volume #7, Issue #2, packet #14, Article 3. Visit [www.cenmi.org](http://www.cenmi.org) to subscribe to receive email notifications about this electronic document, or to receive a print copy.

***"What you get  
by reaching your  
destination is not  
nearly as important  
as what you will  
become by reaching  
your destination."***

*~ Zig Ziglar*

## STUDY FINDS SCHOOL BREAKFAST IS A SOLID INVESTMENT

The National School Breakfast Program has a profound and positive effect on student performance according to ["Impact of School Breakfast on Children's Health and Learning."](#) from the Harvard School of Public Health. A review of more than 100 published studies found that students who ate breakfast during the study but otherwise usually did not, had better attendance, increased standardized test scores, better grades, were less disruptive in the classroom, and visited the school nurse's office less. "In terms of producing good outcomes for kids, it's hard to find a better investment than the school breakfast program... It's as close to a magic bullet as you'll see for educational preparedness," said Dr. J. Larry Brown, lead author of the report.

# Emergency Financial Manager for Detroit Public Schools Appointed

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has appointed Robert C. Bobb as emergency financial manager for the Detroit Public Schools (DPS).

As the district's emergency financial manager, Bobb will assume all financial authority in DPS, which includes balancing the district's budget, managing spending, and establishing strong and reliable financial systems that support sound academic decisions for the students of Detroit.

Bobb brings a wealth of experience in executive management in both the private and public sectors to this position. He has served as city administrator and deputy mayor for Washington, D.C. and as the District of Columbia's homeland security advisor, managing a workforce of approximately 20,000 employees and an annual budget of \$8 billion. He also served as the city manager of Oakland, California, and executive director of the Oakland Redevelopment Agency. In addition, he was the city manager for the cities of Richmond, Virginia; Santa Ana, California; and Kalamazoo, Michigan. Bobb is an expert on issues facing urban governments, including education, economic development, community and neighborhood development, municipal budgeting and finances, contract negotiations, libraries and recreation facilities, and social problems such as crime.

In December, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan declared that the Detroit Public Schools are in a financial emergency. According to state law, an emergency financial manager must be appointed by the governor to assume all financial authority in the district.

Robert Bobb will begin his new position approximately March 2nd.



## SAVE THE DATE!!!

**MDE/NCA Spring School Improvement Conference, April 21-22, 2009, Rock Financial Showplace – Novi, Michigan**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) will co-sponsor the 2009 Spring School Improvement Conference. The conference will be held in the Rock Financial Showplace, Novi, Michigan on April 21-22, 2009. This year's theme is "*Effective School Improvement Practices.*"

The conference will showcase effective school improvement practices with hands-on, practical information that is directly related to improving student achievement. National speakers will be featured, along with selected concurrent sessions conducted by practitioners and featuring what works in schools.

Dr. Harold "Bud" Hodgkinson, Director of the Center for Demographic Policy Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC, will be the conference keynote speaker. Dr. Hodgkinson is a widely-known lecturer and analyst of demographic and educational issues. He is the author of 12 books, three of which have won national awards, and over 200 articles, for which he was honored by the American Education Press Association. Dr. Hodgkinson's presentation at the MDE/NCA Spring School Conference will address "How Future Trends Effect K-12 Education in Michigan." His emphasis will be on the impact of Michigan demographic trends as it related to teachers, educators and administrators. To register for the conference, visit the MIEM registration website at [www.gomiem.org](http://www.gomiem.org).



# Grant Opportunity for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program

The Michigan Department of Education is pleased to announce the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant program opportunity. The purpose of the 21st CCLC grant program is to create community learning centers for those times when school is not in session. Programs must provide students with academic enrichment opportunities as well as additional activities designed to complement their regular academic program. These funds will be awarded through a competitive process to local and intermediate school districts and other public agencies, or private profit or non-profit community-based agencies, organizations and programs, including faith-based organizations to provide comprehensive community learning center services.

Technical assistance workshops and webinar sessions for this grant opportunity will be held on February 18, 20, March 4, and 6. Details regarding these sessions are available on-line at: [www.michigan.gov/21stcclc](http://www.michigan.gov/21stcclc).

Questions regarding the 2009-2010 21st CCLC grant program may be directed to Lorraine Thoreson, John Taylor and Pat Hennessey, Consultants; and Amanda Stoel, Technician; Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services. All may be reached at (517) 373-8483.



## Making math success a reality in Michigan

Mark your calendars and inform your math teams that on March 30, 2009, MSU's Kellogg Center will host a significant conference. This Math Summit – co-sponsored by MDE, MASSP, MIEM, The Education Trust, and NCA – is titled, [“Do the Math: Designing Success For All in the Michigan Merit Mathematics Curriculum.”](#)

The goals for this one-day session are to have participants:

- Leave with a heightened understanding of the Michigan Merit Curriculum mathematics requirements
- Learn about models of promising practices
- Take away practical tools and resources for implementing their program and strategies
- Collaborate with their own district team to begin or enhance an action plan

It is strongly recommended that districts bring teams of 4-6 individuals to this event, including ideally a superintendent and/or curriculum administrator, a building administrator, counselor, math teacher leaders, and math education support personnel.

This Summit aims to meet the emerging need identified through discussions from members of each of the organizations working on this workshop. They report that the Michigan graduation requirements have the education community charged up and trying to develop plans, programs, and methods to insure that Michigan's standards are met and that students are learning a rigorous curriculum that is needed for success in our 21st century.

### Background

The Education Trust has been working for about a year with Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals and a number of schools on high school reform through a process called Opportunity Audits. This data driven decision-making tool is proving to be very helpful having school teams gather, use, and understand local data to improve student achievement. From this work, The Education Trust team was asked to consider modifying this process and putting a focus on Math.

The Modified High School Opportunity Audit was introduced to six teams from around the state in late October. The time spent was reported to be of value to those who participated. With this process introduced and a part of a useful tool kit for others, it was clear that more is needed to be shared with a larger group of educators. This Math Summit is a second phase for this important initiative.

The agenda for the Summit is being finalized and will include national and state resource sharing through keynote presentations showing why the Michigan Merit mathematics curriculum must be implemented and that it can be done.



# Science Grade Level Content Expectations Support Documents Released

The Michigan Department of Education released the Science Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) in December of 2007. Over the past year, MDE has been developing many support documents for these new expectations. There are three recently released supports.

The first support document is the K-7 Science GLCE Companion Clarification Document. This document breaks the Science GLCE into four units per grade. Within each unit are instructional clarifications, assessment clarifications, instructionally useful examples, literacy and mathematics integration, and many other useful tools. The K-4 Science GLCE Companion Document can be found at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-4\\_Science\\_GLCE\\_Companion\\_Document\\_v.1.09\\_2\\_264479\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-4_Science_GLCE_Companion_Document_v.1.09_2_264479_7.pdf), and the 5-7 Science GLCE Companion Document can be found at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/5-7\\_Science\\_GLCE\\_Companion\\_Document\\_v.1.09\\_2\\_264472\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/5-7_Science_GLCE_Companion_Document_v.1.09_2_264472_7.pdf).

The second support document is a science specific Writing Across the Curriculum booklet. In this booklet are many science specific strategies and examples on how to incorporate writing into the classroom. Science Writing Across the Curriculum can be found at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Science\\_WAC\\_2\\_3\\_264454\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Science_WAC_2_3_264454_7.pdf).

The final support document is a computer-based science teaching resource call Science Builder. Science Builder is a searchable, visual, science dictionary; written with an accurate, developmentally appropriate definition students can hear, read, and see by graphic representation. Students and teachers can search the alphabetical list on the left or by specific content expectation. Teachers using the program will find included terms linked to short formative assessments provided to gauge student progress. This tool's web link can be found on the MDE website at [www.Michigan.gov/science](http://www.Michigan.gov/science) under "What's New." Michigan educators have a statewide license to use this site. The login name is '**michigan**' (case sensitive) and the password is '**science**' (case sensitive). For more information on these documents, contact Kevin J. Richard, MDE Science Consultant, at 517-373-4223, or [RichardK1@Michigan.gov](mailto:RichardK1@Michigan.gov).



## '21st Century Media Center'

More than three years in the making, the Library of Michigan and Michigan Department of Education announce the availability of the "21st Century Media Center" video, a collaborative effort showcasing the essential need for fully supported school library media centers with qualified staff – all for the benefit of Michigan's K-12 students' educational success.

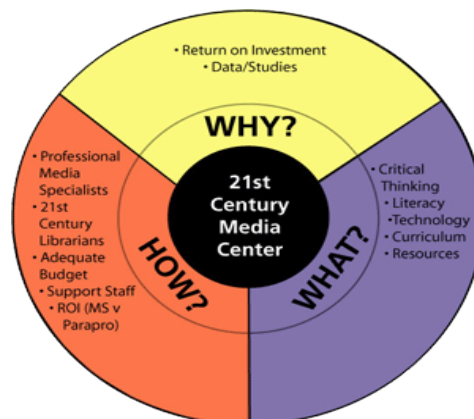
The video is geared toward the stakeholders who influence school library media programs in Michigan schools (superintendents, building-level administrators, school boards, parent groups, community leaders, legislators and educational associations) and can be viewed at [www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan](http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan).

State Librarian Nancy Robertson applauded the efforts of Library of Michigan and Department of Education staff, along with partners that included the Michigan Association for Media in Education, the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, Wayne State University, and representatives from several intermediate school districts and regional educational media centers.

According to the Partnership for 21st Century Skills – an organization which seeks to position 21st Century skills at the center of U.S. K-12 education by building collaborative partnerships among education, business, community and government leaders – today's schools must align classroom environments with real-world environments by infusing the following skills:

- Information, media literacy and communication skills;
- Thinking and problem-solving (critical thinking and systems thinking; problem identification, formulation and solution; creativity and intellectual curiosity);
- Interpersonal and self-direction skills (interpersonal and collaborative skills; self-direction; accountability and adaptability; social responsibility);
- Global awareness;
- Financial, economic and business literacy, and developing entrepreneurial skills to enhance workplace productivity and career options; and
- Civic literacy

For more information on '21st Century Media Centers,' visit [www.michigan.gov/hal](http://www.michigan.gov/hal).



# Washington Teaching Ambassador Fellowship



The U.S. Department of Education is accepting applications for the 2009-2010 Teaching Ambassador Fellowship (TAF) program at the U.S. Department of Education. The TAF program was launched earlier this year to offer highly motivated, innovative public school teachers, including public charter school teachers, the opportunity to contribute their knowledge and experience to the national dialogue on public education. Applications for 2009-2010 will be accepted through March 16, 2009.

The program includes two kinds of opportunities for teachers across the U.S. - Washington Fellowships and Classroom Fellowships. Washington Fellows become full-time federal employees at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., participating in policy discussions and working alongside staff on education programs and strategies aimed at educational improvement. Classroom Fellows

remain in their local schools under their regular teaching contracts, and provide their experience and perspectives to the Department through various assignments and part-time projects. Up to 20 Classroom Fellows and 5 Washington Fellows will be chosen.

Teaching Ambassador Fellows will be selected based upon their record of leadership, impact on student achievement and potential for contribution to the field. State certified Pre-K-12 public school teachers of all subjects who have spent at least three years in the classroom are eligible to apply. To ensure collaboration at the school and district levels, teacher applicants must have the full support of their school administration.

The current Fellows will serve through June 30, 2009. They represent 22 states and a wide-range of subject, grade level and demographic areas. All Fellows have collaborated on projects and activities to leave a lasting impact on the Department of Education. In particular, Washington Fellows have participated in conferences, presentations, briefings, projects and discussions with senior Department officials, as well as other education groups and leaders. Classroom Fellows have assisted the Department with outreach to teachers nationwide and with collecting teacher feedback on federal projects.

The Department received over 1,100 applications for the 25 Fellowship positions for the 2008-2009 pilot year. The 2009-2010 Teaching Ambassador Fellows will be named by June 2009.

Applications are due by March 16, 2009. Visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherfellowship/> to learn more and apply for the TAF.

## February is School-Based Health Center Awareness Month!

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed a Certificate of Proclamation declaring February 2009 School-Based Health Center Month in Michigan. The proclamation recognizes school-based health centers as providing a critical role in improving the health and well-being of all Michigan children and encourages all citizens to acknowledge the commitment and passion that school-based health centers demonstrate to meet the health care needs of the youth and communities they serve.

Michigan's school-based and school-linked health centers have been delivering comprehensive health care and a wide range of support services for 20 years. Today, there are over 90 school-based and school-linked health centers and programs in the state of Michigan delivering a range of primary, preventive, and early intervention services to nearly 200,000 children yearly of all grade levels in urban, rural, suburban schools across the state. These centers and programs have emerged as a powerful tool and safety net in meeting the health care needs of children and adolescents.

To celebrate and engage your youth advisory councils, or simply the youth you serve in your centers, the **School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan** has developed a [February Calendar of Activities](#) to provide activities to meet the diverse learning styles within your school and can easily be adapted to all grade levels.



# State of Michigan's Board-Approved CEU

The State Board Continuing Education Unit (SB-CEU) Program was established in 1989 by the State Board of Education (SBE). The SB-CEU program is for educators who possess a professional education teaching certificate, occupational education certificate, school guidance counselor license, or school psychologist certificate (after 9/1/1992). School administrators can obtain SB-CEUs toward requirements for continued employment.

Currently, SB-CEU programs for approval are submitted to the MDE by approximately 180 approved SB-CEU sponsors. The sponsors are required to be Michigan based and include: 2-year and 4-year Michigan colleges and universities that are accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting agency; State Board of Education approved Michigan teacher preparation institutions; State of Michigan agencies; local, intermediate, public/private K-12 schools, and public school academies; and local and state professional education organizations with a direct affiliation with the Michigan K-12 system. In 2008, these sponsors submitted approximately 6,000 program offerings to the MDE for approval for SB-CEUs for Michigan's educators.



The SB-CEU website, [http://www.solutionwhere.com/mi\\_sbceu](http://www.solutionwhere.com/mi_sbceu), allows access to all information pertaining to approved sponsors and currently approved SB-CEU offerings. Educators access the website and review approved offerings by date, by category (including on-line offerings), and by sponsor. The listing of approved offerings is updated daily as sponsors submit offerings to the MDE for approval.

Questions concerning a specific SB-CEU approved offering are to be directed to the SB-CEU sponsor of the offering, which can be found at the SB-CEU website. General questions concerning the SB-CEU program can be directed to Mrs. Susan Koenigsknecht, MDE SB-CEU Program Coordinator, by phone at 517-241-4928 or by email [KoenigsknechtS@michigan.gov](mailto:KoenigsknechtS@michigan.gov).



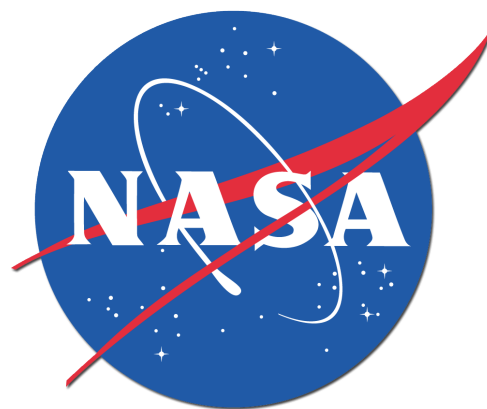
## NASA Education Unveils New Do-It-Yourself Podcast Activity

NASA Education is excited to introduce the Do-It-Yourself Podcast activity in the For Educators section of NASA.gov. Students can preview and download audio and video clips of astronauts performing work in space and on the ground. They can then use these clips to build their own podcast or similar audio/video project.

Learning modules on the DIY Podcast page are categorized by topic to assist students with creating projects about a subject of interest. Each subject module includes video and audio clips, images, helpful information and links to related resources. A variety of audio and video clips are provided to enhance flexibility and creativity. Students can create video or audio projects using free or inexpensive software on Windows or Macintosh computers.

Educators and their students are encouraged to distribute their NASA projects through podcasts, social networks, Web sites, CDs, DVDs or other channels that they may choose.

The Do-It-Yourself Podcast Blog will keep users posted on the latest updates. Tips and suggestions for incorporating the DIY Podcast into the classroom and updates on when new topic modules are available will be posted regularly. Use the Comments feature of the blog to share ideas and experiences with other teachers and students.



To learn more and to start making podcasts, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/diypodcast/index.html>.



## Michigan State Board of Education

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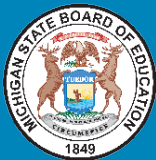
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### Newsletter Contacts:

**David Head**  
[headd@michigan.gov](mailto:headd@michigan.gov)

**Director of Communications**  
**Martin Ackley**

[www.michigan.gov/mde-newsletter](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-newsletter)

## ON THE HORIZON...

### - Near Future

[Michigan School Testing Conference](#), February 23-25, 2009

[MI Reading Association Annual Conference](#), March 14-16, 2009

[State Board of Education Meeting](#), March 17, 2009; 10:00 am  
(**note date!!**)

[2009 MACUL Conference](#), March 18-20, 2009

[Spring School Improvement ISD Workshop](#), March 23, 2009

### - Distant Future

[MiAEYC Conference](#), March 26-28, 2009

[2009 AdvancED Conference](#), March 29-31, 2009

[State Board of Education Meeting](#), April 14, 2009

[Spring School Improvement Conference](#), April 21-22, 2009

[Tri-Cities Cultures of Thinking Conference](#), April 23-25, 2009

[MSBO 2009 Annual Conference](#), April 28-30, 2009

[Michigan After-school Collaborative Summer Summit](#), May 29

[Educational Technology Leadership Conference](#), June 22-23

[MASCD Curriculum Leaders Institute](#), August 2009

[2009 MCTM Annual Conference & Institute](#), August 6-7, 2009

[Michigan Teaching for Learning Institute](#), August 11-13, 2009

